

Vermont Town Halls: Underage Drinking Prevention

In 2003 the Institute of Medicine conducted an extensive research review on the impact of underage drinking and actions that have proven effective in preventing and reducing underage drinking. This report, "Reducing Underage Drinking: A Collective Responsibility" outlines recommendations for the nation, states and local communities. In fall of 2005 the Surgeon General issued a "call to action" on these recommendations. As a first step, a series of town hall meetings will be held in communities across the country on or around March 28. Over 20 community coalitions in Vermont will be hosting Town Hall meetings

Purpose of the Town Hall Meetings

The purpose of the Town Hall Meetings is to: (1) increase our understanding of underage drinking, its health consequences and the influences that promote early use; and (2) promote community involvement in prevention efforts.

Who Can Participate?

Everyone can! Since underage drinking is a critical health and safety issue, it is important to involve the entire community including legislators, state and community leaders, parents, youth, education, substance abuse prevention, other health entities, justice/law enforcement, highway safety, local government and business.

Who Is Sponsoring the Town Hall Meetings?

The Town Hall Meetings are being sponsored by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the national Interagency Coordinating Council on the Prevention of Underage Drinking. In Vermont sponsors include: Michael Hogan, Commissioner of Liquor Control; Barbara Cimaglio, Vermont Department of Health (VDH) Deputy Commissioner for Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs; Sgt. John Flannigan, State Police; Christine Finley, VDH District Field Chief; Carol Rose, Department of Education Alcohol and Drug Prevention & Traffic Safety Programs Coordinator; Steve Reckers, Governor's Highway Safety Program; Jim Bellino, VDH Alcohol and Drug Programs Prevention Coordinator.